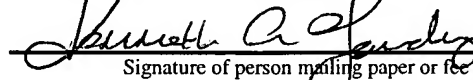


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re continuation patent application of:)
Neal E. Fearnot and Michael C. Hiles) Before the Examiner
Application No.: New U.S. Continuation)
Application Filed Herewith) Group Art Unit
Filed: February 6, 2002)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment for the above-entitled patent application. Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include issue fees.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the first paragraph on page 1 of the Patent Application under the heading "REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION" to read as follows:

--The present application is a continuation of International Patent Application No.

AL PCT/US00/21546 filed August 7, 2000 designating the United States and published in English, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application, Serial No.

Preliminary Amendment
Inventor: Neal E. Fearnot and Michael C. Hiles
Application No.: New U.S. Continuation Application Filed Herewith
Page 1 of 2